Scarcity of CNG

3814. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by CNG vehicle owners due to scarcity of CNG in the National Capital and NCR towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has given contract to private players to lay pipelines for CNG in the NCR towns and thereafter nullified agreement with them for the supply of CNG;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps Government proposes to take to meet the shortage of CNG in the capital and also to ensure that CNG filling stations in NCR towns function in a smooth manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) The present allocation of 2 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) to Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) is sufficient to meet the daily demand of CNG in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, as the number of CNG vehicles is on the rise, additional CNG stations are being set up to cater to meet the requirement of CNG vehicles. Further expansion of CNG infrastructure is being taken up in a phased manner depending upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

(c) and (d) GAIL has formed a Joint Venture Company with BPCL & Government of NCT of Delhi, namely IGL, for implementation of city gas distribution project in NCR towns. IGL is laying pipeline network to cater to PNG and CNG supply to various consumers in Delhi and Noida.

Taking over of sugar mills by oil companies

3815. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the Public Sector oil companies have taken over the sick Sugar Mills in the country for the purpose of producing ethanol blended petrol;

(b) if so, the break-up of PSU, alongwith the Sugar Mills taken over and the expected ethanol that would be channeled for blending per annum;

(c) whether any sick sugar mills were taken over or set up in the State of Andhra Pradesh for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HPCL have taken over two sick Sugar mills, one at Sugauli in East Champaran and another at Louris in West Champaran in the State of Bihar, for the purpose of producing ethanol blended petrol programme. Currently, study is being carried out and expected ethanol production from these two units will be established only after completion of the study.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Public Sector Undertaking have not acquired any sick sugar mills in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However a preliminary study for possibility of putting up Ethanol plant at two sugar units running under cooperative sector in the district of Visakhapatnam is being carried out by HPCL.

Rise in crude prices

3816. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of crude petroleum in the international market have risen over US$ 100 per barrel in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the average prices prevailed during the last six months, month-wise;

(c) the details of oil purchased during the last six months indicating volume and price in terms of barrel, PSU Oil Company-wise;

(d) the details of Customs Duty and Counter Vailing Duty (CVD) attracted on these purchases; and

(e) the steps taken, if any, to insulate purchases of oil from volatile international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of Indian basket of crude oil has risen over US$ 100 per barrel recently. Indian basket of crude oil touched an all-time high of $ 109.30/bbl on 21.04.2008. The average price of Indian basket of crude oil for the current year 2008-09 *i.e.* upto 21st April 2008 is $ 103.44/bbl. The month-wise average prices of Indian Basket of Crude Oil from October, 2007 to April, 2008 (upto 21.4.08) is tabulated below:

	$/bbl
Oct'07	79.33
Nov'07	89.11
Dec'07	87.92
Jan'08	89.52
Feb'08	92.37
Mar'08	99.76
Apr'08 (upto 21.4.08)	103.44

NOTE: The composition of Indian Basket of crude represents average of Oman and Dubai for Sour Grades and Brent (Dated) for Sweet Grade in the ratio of 61.4 : 38.6.

(c) and (d) The details of volume and price in terms of barrels of crude oil imported, Customs Duty and Counter Vailing Duty paid by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) during the last six months *i.e.* from October, 2007 to March, 2008 are given below:

Name of the Company	Quantity (Million Barrels)	Price ($/barrel) (weighted average)	Customs Duty paid (Rs. crore)	Counter Vailing Duty (Rs. crore)
IOB	166.592	88.66	3,180.08	Nil
BPC	51.103	88.79	913.68	Nil
HPC	49.166	89.06	632.57	Nil